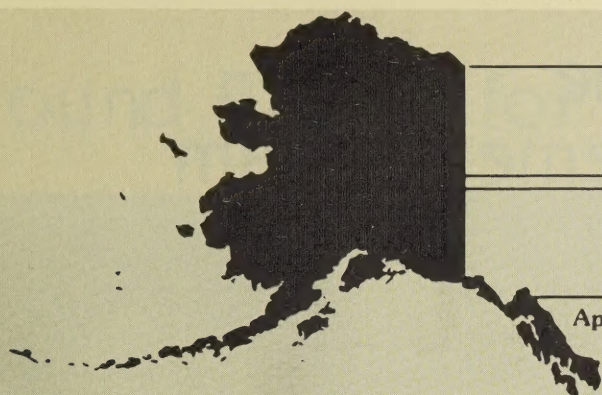


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# ALASKA PEOPLE

April 1987

Volume VIII

Number IV

**Summer's  
almost here!**





#### On The Cover:

Summer's almost here. Soon the Glennallen District river rangers will again be patrolling the Gulkana River.

No passion on earth, no love or hate is equal to the passion to modify someone else's draft.

H.G. Wells

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## Meet the Management Team

Each month ALASKA PEOPLE is featuring one member of the Alaska BLM Management Team. This month's interview is with Gene Terland, manager of the Glennallen District Office.

by Danielle Allen

Take one look at the tall, lanky, slow talking fellow with the cowboy hat and boots and you'd swear he's a misplaced cowboy.

"Yes, I guess you could say I'm a cowboy," says the Montana-born Gene Terland. But this cowboy is the Glennallen district manager and he now calls Glennallen his home.

Terland came to Glennallen about a year ago to become area manager. After the reorganization he found his position and responsibilities had been elevated to that of the Glennallen district manager.

Things have happened quickly for a guy who didn't know what he'd do after high school. "You see, I grew up thinking that one day I'd own my own ranch," he says. Terland's dad had run a ranch for many years.

He and his sister had what he calls a typical childhood, growing up in the Beartooth outdoors. Later, his kinship with nature would help him decide his life's profession.

He began taking engineering classes at Montana State University in 1969 but graduated with a bachelor's degree in fish and wildlife management.

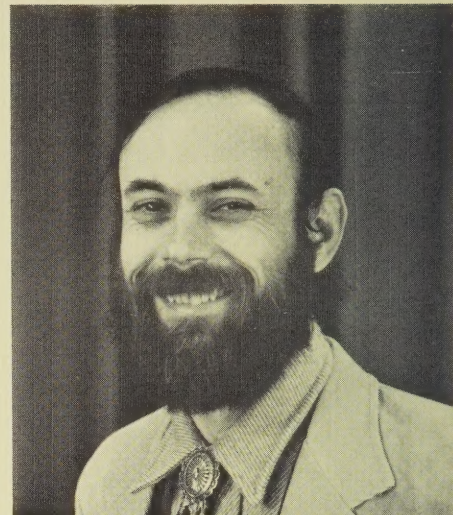
He joined BLM in 1974 as a range conservationist in Vale, Ore. From there he went to Baker, Ore., in 1977 and to Salmon, Idaho, in 1979.

Coming to Alaska has been something he knew he would eventually do.

"I told Dee (his wife) if I ever had the opportunity to come to Alaska, I wouldn't hesitate. The hunting and fishing are some of the best," he says.

And what could be better than the 5-million-acre Glennallen District; it's a recreationist's dream come true.

Besides its tremendous recreational opportunities, the Glennallen District is BLM Alaska's only detached district office. The remoteness doesn't bother Terland but he says, "It does require my staff to do a lot of traveling." He's looking forward to the upcoming field season. Important projects include the design work at the Paxson and Tangle Lakes campgrounds, fisheries and wild and scenic rivers work.



Gene Terland

But the administration of the government's only road-accessible land settlement is what sets Glennallen apart from other BLM offices. He says, "The Slana land settlement program is what makes the Glennallen District unique.

For Terland, managing the public's resources is a rewarding job and he credits all accomplishments to his staff. "Without my people I couldn't do anything. I always look forward to the end of the year to see how well we've done."

By the end of this fiscal year, however, he hopes to escape into the nearby wilderness with his three kids and wife and do what he likes to do best, hunt and fish!

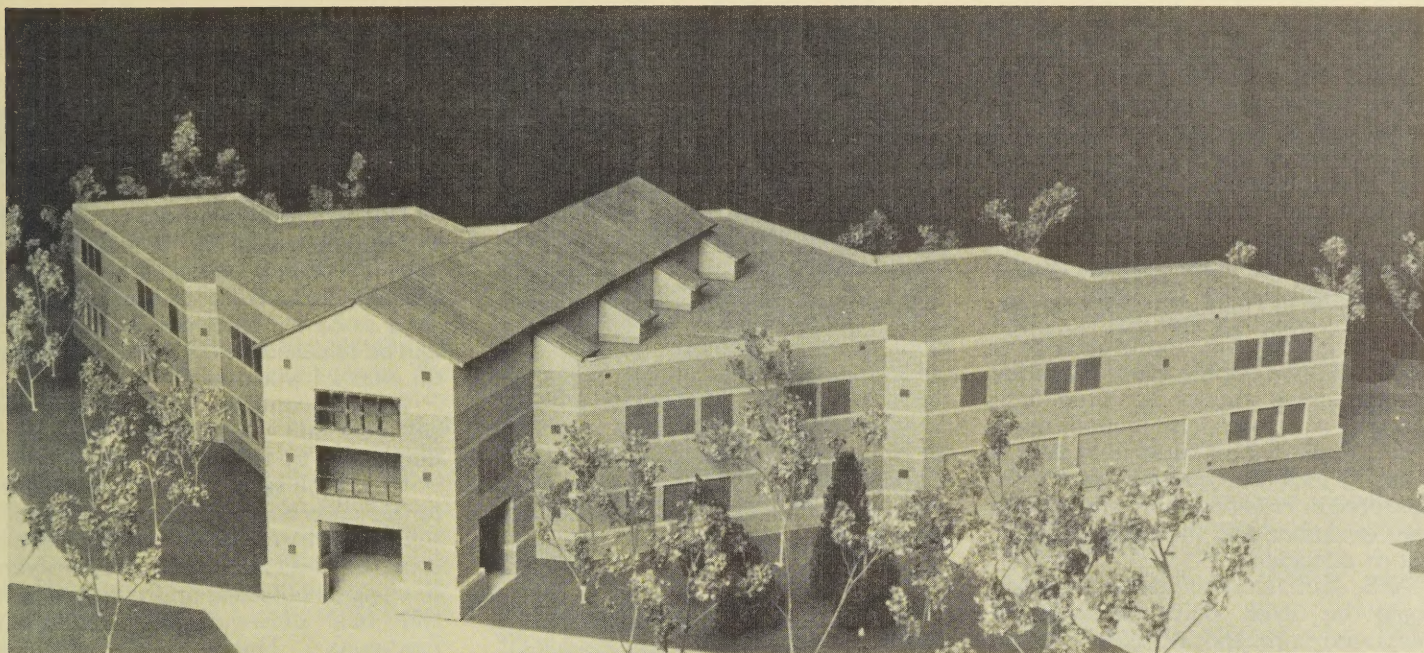
### The New Organization

By now all of you should have received a packet titled "Action Plan for our New Organization." The report stems from the March 4-6 management team meeting in which employees were asked to voice their opinions on the progress of the reorganization. As part of the followup to the reorganization, ALASKA PEOPLE will be providing regular updates on what progress is being made on each of the action plan items addressed at the meeting.

A large graph is being put up in the state director's conference room listing the progress made on each action item. The graph will be reviewed by the management team every Monday morning at the staff meeting.

# Ground Broken for New Fairbanks Office

photo by Dan Gullickson



*A model of the future office building sits in the lobby at the Fairbanks Support Center on Fort Wainwright.*

by Susan Swartz

BLM employees in Fairbanks have been eagerly awaiting their new office building. On March 12, the first steps were taken toward that final product when workmen cleared the trees and scraped the site clear of vegetation. The building site will be excavated to a depth of eight feet. Next comes dynamic compaction of the foundation. Contracting officer Barry Noll said this

is "like filling up a jar with sand. If you pound on the top of the jar, it settles the sand." In this case the contractor pounds the sand by dropping a 10-ton weight from 30 feet, six times for each point. This should compact the silt and sand under the foundation so that in case of an earthquake, it won't settle and shift.

After the base is compacted, the contractor will bring in gravel for the foundation. Actual construction of the

building should start in mid-April, depending on the weather.

The schedule calls for the buildings to be substantially completed in April 1988. Finish work may take longer.

When the new building is completed, BLM employees in Northern Alaska will be united again under one roof. Despite the pains of moving, this will be a relief for all concerned.

## George Gurr Retires May 1

Alaska BLM Public Affairs Chief George Gurr is hanging up his spurs. A thirty-three year BLMer, Gurr worked his way up the ranks as a forester in Craig, Colo., and in Worland, Wyoming. He went on to direct the Castle Valley Job Corps Conservation Center in Price, Utah.

"Cream rises to the top", (as Gurr always says), and his good work did not go unnoticed. In 1968 he was appointed coordinator of the Johnny Horizon Environmental Education Program based in Washington, D.C.

Gurr took the idea from conception to a nation-wide program which included a series of concerts and public service announcements involving celebrities such as Burl Ives, Ed McMahon, Cecily Tyson and Captain Kangaroo.

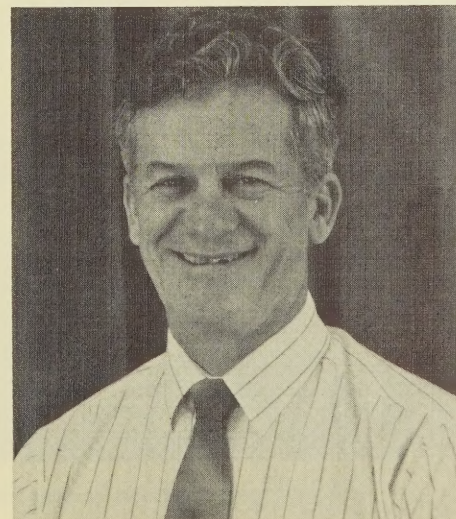
From the nation's capital, Gurr went to Oregon as manager of BLM's Vale District Office.

In 1976 he competed for and was selected to head a program for the United States and the Saudi Arabian governments in Riyadh, S.A.

In 1981 Gurr took the helm as chief of public affairs for Alaska. Always a gung-ho BLMer, with Gurr as our leader, it was a pleasure to come to work. Happy retirement. We'll really miss you George!

The Public Affairs Staff

**George's retirement dinner will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Anchorage on the evening of May 12. Contact public affairs at 271-5555 for tickets.**



George Gurr

# UAF Students Write Program for AFS

by Susan Swartz

Three computer programmers will volunteer their time to the Alaska Fire Service this spring. As a class project, a team of students from a software engineering class (CS 401) at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks will write a program to track fire crew rotation on the Alaska Initial Attack Management System (AIAMS).

The Situations Office of the Alaska Fire Service keeps a crew rotation list to determine which of the many village fire fighting crews should be hired first, based on which was least recently used.

In the past, 3-by-5 cards were kept in a display rack and moved as each crew was hired or released. This method was hard to update and the cards could be lost or damaged.

AFS staff felt that the information could be used more efficiently if integrated into the AIAMS. If the information on crew availability, the suppression plan, land ownership and fire behavior models were all available at one terminal, managers would be able to make better decisions about how to attack a fire.

The three programmers are Alex Clarke, a senior at UAF who worked for BLM last summer as a temporary programmer; Jim Greslin, another senior who also works for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and Scott Dennis, a junior at UAF who has

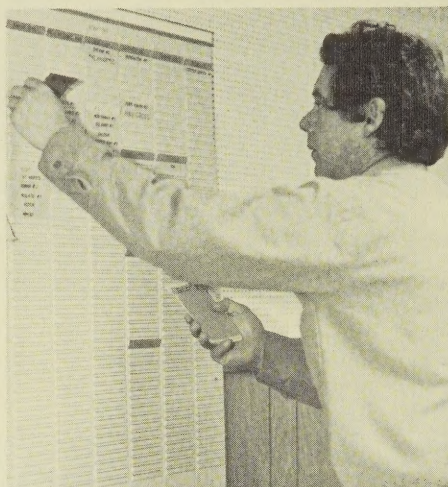


photo by Dan Gullickson

*Don Barry uses a card rack to organize crew rotation. This cumbersome system will be replaced with a computer program written by University of Alaska computer science students.*

previously worked with fire statistics software for the U.S. Forest Service. Clarke is the chief programmer, Greslin is the test engineer and Dennis is the project editor. Their professor and the manager of the "C.S. 401 Company" is Dr. Ron Gatterdam.

The programmers met with electronics technician John Palmer and intelligence manager Don Barry in February to discuss what the new

program should accomplish.

The FORTRAN 77 program will have a list of available crews in order of hiring priority, a list of crews currently hired and where they are, and a history of each crew's activity for the year.

This program will help to assemble the end-of-season fire statistics which were previously collected by hand. It will also keep track of the number of days since the crew was hired so they can be released for their mandatory day off after 21 work days.

The programmers hope to deliver the software and manuals and train AFS employees by the end of April.

This is the second year that students in this class have written programs for the Alaska Fire Service. In 1986 Palmer took the class and designed a program to transmit resource orders to and from the fire coordination center in Fairbanks. This was an extremely valuable software package and was used extensively during the 1986 fire season.

The only expense to AFS is the copying costs for manuals and for providing a terminal and modem for the programmers to use. The University will retain the copyright to the program. This cooperation between UAF and AFS provides a real world programming experience for the students and may provide another valuable product to AFS.

## Enter the 1987 BLM Photo Contest

Guess what...this year the BLM photo contest is offering **cash prizes** to the winners. There's still time to take the photos.

First prize will be \$500, second \$250, third \$100 and ten honorable mentions \$50 each. The photos must have been taken between February 28, and July 31, 1987. All entries must be in to the Washington Office, Division of Public Affairs by close of business August 3, 1987.

All BLM employees are invited to enter their best BLM photos. The primary objectives of the contest are to refurbish the Washington office photo library with current and relevant BLM photographs; to improve the quality of BLM's photographs; and to recognize

the photographic abilities of BLM employees. Those entries that gain recognition may be used in publications, special displays, audiovisual productions, annual reports, and news releases.

There will be two major classes of competition:

- (1) black and white prints
- (2) color transparencies

Photos will be judged in one major category, *BLM public lands and their resources with emphasis on the multiple-use concept*, meaning photos and slides which depict more than one resource in use.

### Entry Specifics:

All submissions must include an entry form and all required information in

order to be considered.

Photos or slides imprinted with any information will not be considered.

Black and white prints and negatives become the property of the Bureau of Land Management photo library in the Washington Office.

Color slides will be returned.

Send entries directly to: Mae Bowman by August 1, 1987. Any questions can also be directed to:

Mae Bowman  
Bureau of Land Management (MS-5600)

Office of Public Affairs (130)

18th & C Streets, N.W.

Washington D.C. 20240

(FTS)343-4706; Comm. (202)343-4706

# Bob Gal - BLM's Rep. in Kotzebue

by Susan Swartz

Being the only BLM representative in Kotzebue makes Robert Gal responsible for a little bit of everything. Gal is a natural resource specialist for the Kobuk District Office, and runs the field office single-handed. Not only is he BLM's representative at the office, but he helps the community in many ways both on and off the job.

One of the things the people of Kotzebue appreciate most about the BLM office is the land status information. Employees of the village of Kotzebue, the Northwest Arctic Borough, NANA Regional Corporation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Alaska Legal Services, as well as Native allottees and miners, all come in to use the Beehive terminal connected to the Alaska Automated Land and Minerals Record System.

**Kotzebue is located on a spit of land extending into Kotzebue Sound. There is evidence that the area has been occupied continuously since about 400 A.D.**

They might need information on the status of Native allotment applications, or want to know if a miner's claim is valid. Gal helps answer all their questions. He also works on Native allotments; performs inspections on revocation and restoration sites, rights-of-way, minerals sites and other land actions; researches and grants permits for gravel and house logs; and generally does whatever needs doing.

The BLM and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have collared both reindeer and caribou in the Kotzebue area. About three days a month Gal flies over the herds monitoring their activities. Fairbanks biologists are tracking the herds' movements to find out more about the interactions between their ranges.

The NANA region has long been the focus of archeological investigations and includes the famous Cape Krusenstern and Onion Portage sites within its boundaries. The people of the NANA region, through the Inupiat Iitqusait program sponsored by the NANA Corporation, are developing strategies to protect their heritage. NANA Corporation manages a museum of artifacts of traditional culture. Gal has been giving advice on

what should be included in the collection.

An anthropologist by training, Gal recently prepared a National Historic Register nomination for the Kotzebue Spit. Kotzebue is located on a spit of land extending into Kotzebue Sound. There is evidence that the area has been occupied continuously since about 400 A.D.

Another important part of Gal's life is dog mushing. BLM owns two adjacent houses in Kotzebue. One serves as the BLM office and quarters for transient BLMers, and Gal and his family live in the other. Thus he has time to run his 16 dogs during his lunch hour if his wife harnesses them for him. On spring evenings, he often runs 10 to 15 miles with them.

Gal's mushing is all for pleasure; he does not race with his dogs. However, he is a member of the local dogmushers association and was race marshal for the Kobuk 220 race last year. This annual 220-mile race is run in December. It starts and ends in Kotzebue and runs through Noorvik, Kiana, and Selawik. This spring Gal will serve as a judge at Buckland for the first Nome to Kotzebue dog race.

Gal earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree from Brown University. He has now "all but finished" his Ph.D. and should have his doctorate in the spring of 1988.

**One of the things the people of Kotzebue appreciate most about the BLM office is the land status information.**

Gal started with BLM in 1976 as a district archeologist. Two months after joining BLM Gal became archeologist for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR) special project. In 1980, he was appointed NPR project manager. Then went back to supervisory archeologist when NPR became part of the Arctic District.

Gal his wife Susan really wanted return to western Alaska, so in June of 1985, Gal moved to Kotzebue.

The Gals have three children: Jessica, 14; Alison, 9; and David, 3. Susan teaches the children at home using correspondence courses.



*Bob Gal discusses business with one of his Kotzebue friends.*

# Property Moves BLMers into New Organization

Is the light above your desk out?  
Need furniture and partitions moved?  
Want to find out about car pooling?

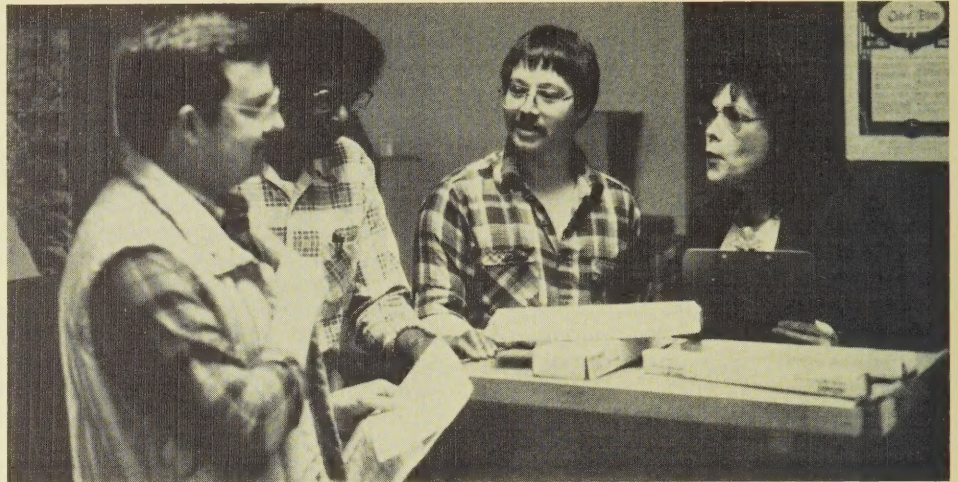
Call Property.

In Anchorage, Property Services is located within the Branch of Field Support and Office Services. At the Campbell Tract, it is called Property Services, and is made up of property management lead, Jim Shiffer; general supply specialists, Del Starnier and Ron Alston; and logistics coordinator Bob Evans. In the State Office, the property lead is Mary Woodward, assisted by laborer Bill Dawson and temporaries Herbert Poole and Paul Russell.

Many of us have become very familiar with these folks as they helped us move into the new organization. Shiffer worked with the management team to lay out the space configurations and Woodward scheduled all the moves.

Moving such a large number of people can be a logistical nightmare! "Many people were tense about the whole reorganization and the disruption of moving. We tried our best to work with their schedules," says Woodward.

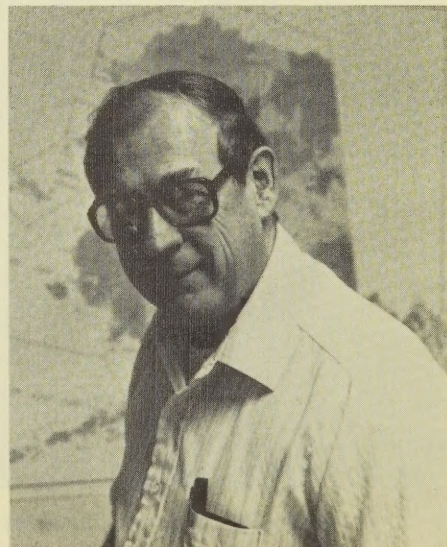
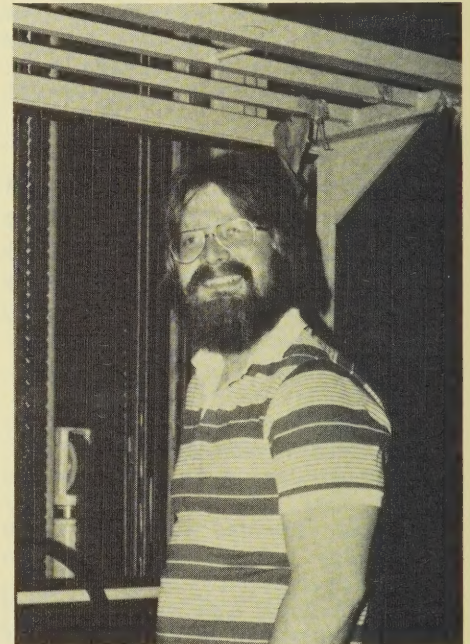
Although most of the moving was done by the property section, moving the Townsites safe from first to fourth floor required the services of an engineer to evaluate the stress level of the floor and to check the foundation. Smyth Moving Company was contracted to move it, and an open space of eight feet on either side of the safe was required to accommodate the weight. Smyth was also hired to move all the cadastral survey hanging files.



Moving desks and furniture meant moving a myriad of desk computers. Tom McMaster, John Dehoyos, John Miller and Max Graves in Telecommunications rewired miles of cable to accommodate all the moves.

"We tried to do what moving we could over the weekend," says Woodward. "Who inherited what became very confusing. At first people were asked to leave behind all their furniture, but when there was a shortage in their new areas, it sometimes became a matter of rounding up furniture where they could."

Moving people during a reorganization falls under "other duties as assigned." Depending on whether you are in Fairbanks or Anchorage, Property's regular responsibilities may include: furniture, telephones, GSA facilities, signs, new equipment, audio visual equipment, vehicles, supplies, and surplus equipment.



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(top) Property lead Mary Woodward passes out instructions to Del Starnier, Herbert Poole and Paul Russell. (above) Mike Nolan, (far left) Jim Shiffer, (left) Bill Dawson. All helped move state office employees.

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# Monitoring Seismic Work on the North Slope

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

The one and only seismic operation for the 1987 winter season started just outside the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska in late December and will end at breakup. Seismic explorations are an inexpensive way to search for subsurface minerals.

Exploration involves a seismic train made up of Nodwell all-terrain-vehicles that have been modified with large vibrator plates underneath the vehicle. At predetermined points along the line of exploration, the plate is lowered to the ground. The Nodwell then sends vibrations through the plate into the ground. The vibrations hit the subsurface materials and bounce back with various intensities. These returning vibrations are recorded in the high-tech instrumentation room of one of the train's vehicles.

**Seismic operations play an important part in locating oil and gas, but they must be carefully planned or they can damage delicate tundra. Preventing this damage is the goal of the Arctic District's monitoring program.**

The vibration pattern is collected on magnetic tape and shipped out for processing. Although the resulting information is not exact, it gives the exploration company a picture of the subsurface strata, and an idea of where to place test wells. The main seismic camp is about 100 miles west of Toolik, a former pipeline camp about halfway between Fairbanks and Prudhoe Bay. Two tanker trucks holding about 2,500 gallons of fuel are parked at Toolik. Fueling trucks with large balloon tires continually travel between the tanker and the seismic trains to refuel the equipment. This is less expensive than using aircraft for refueling.

An airstrip built on a frozen lake nearby links the camp to the outside world. From here people, fuels and supplies are airlifted to camps using small ski planes capable of short take offs and landings. Since the planes are on ice, there is no environmental damage.

Seismic operations play an important part in locating oil and gas, but they must be carefully planned or they can damage delicate tundra. Preventing this damage is the goal of the Arctic District's environmental monitoring program.

Arctic District is the only BLM-Alaska district actively involved in environmental monitoring of oil and gas exploration activities. Natural resource specialist Don Meares leads the program on lands administered by the Arctic District.

The goal of the monitoring program is to prevent or minimize damage to the environment because of the seismic activity. After receiving an application from an exploration company, the Arctic staff develops stipulations for protecting the environment, cultural resources, air quality and for handling solid waste and fuel. These "stips" are attached to the permit when it is granted.

When Meares visits the seismic operations, he checks the condition of the equipment to make sure parked vehicles don't leave oil on the ground. The seismic crew uses buckets and barrels cut in half under the equipment

to catch oil and fuel drips. Fueling operations are checked to see if any is spilled during transfer, and if it is, how it is cleaned up. Meares also checks to see that companies have absorbent material available and readily visible to soak up any spills.

Meares also flies over the seismic train trails, looking for torn-up ground and abrasions where the vehicles cut across river banks.

Ninety-nine percent of all seismic operations are in the winter. BLM allows only helicopter and foot traffic, no on-the-ground vehicle activity in the summer to prevent damage to the tundra.

Maintaining a BLM presence in the field seems to help the companies stay in compliance with permit stipulations. The stipulations are not intended to make work harder for the company, but to protect our nation's public land from unnecessary damage.



*The Arctic staff makes routine checks of the vibracise trains permitted to conduct seismic exploration on the North Slope. The Nodwell tract vehicles operate on a good snow cover and leave virtually no tracks after the snow melts. The last vehicle in the train carries all the instrumentation that records the information from the seismic operation.*

# Is Training the Answer?

by Mel Williams

We have all been recently reminded of the responsibility of the mid-year Performance Improvement Position Review (PIPR) and Individual Development Plan (IDP) review requirement. This is also the time when we must begin identifying employee development needs to be cranked into the FY 88 annual training and budget cycle. In developing a training plan, each of us has to follow certain thought processes in determining if training is the answer to our needs.

The main point of this process is to make sure that training and development reflect the mission requirements of the organization, the performance requirements of the job and the employee's career goals. Careful analysis is necessary if training is to be relevant, well designed, and of high quality.

## Where do I start?

Begin with a review of your job standards and the organization's needs.

Your responsibilities are identified in functional statements, AWP directives, and MBO assignments. You and your supervisor should at this time review the PIPR and IDP to identify knowledges, skills and abilities that need development. This is also the time to discuss your career development plans with your supervisor--both short and long term goals should be addressed.

## What options do I have?

It's hard to resist immediately identifying formal training to meet a specific need. However, to best meet the need and to be cost effective, other learning options should be considered, ie: job aids, coaching, OJT, job rotations, on-site details, shadowing, special projects. If none of these options can meet the need, you will then need to consider formal training.

In selecting the training source, *each of us has the responsibility for exploring local resources first*; ie the Learning Center, correspondence, in-house training, other government agencies, or colleges. Private training vendors would be considered as the last option. Non-government professional meetings are a viable source to maintain the state-of-the-art in your profession. Training requiring travel and per diem should be used *only* when local sources are unable to meet your need.

## How are my needs considered in the budget process?

Each district manager, the deputy state director and the manager-AFS have the authority to approve their servicing employees' training plans. Funds are allocated for the following priorities: entry level, performance improvement, mandatory, information and personal career development. Employee development is a continuing process. It never ends. Plans need updating and modifying to suit the changing needs of the organization.

In developing the FY88 plan, remember to identify the *need first*--then determine the best source--don't wait for the catalog to be issued and then use it as a shopping guide. By beginning the process now, you will avoid the AWP time crunch and have a sound plan. Feel free to contact the state office training staff to help you determine training needs, and in any other part of the training plan process.

# The EEO Complaint Process

by Bob Jones

## What it is:

The EEO Complaint Process is designed for use solely by government employees and federal job applicants who believe they have experienced discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin or handicapping condition. The law prohibits discrimination against anyone for any of these reasons. To eliminate discrimination from the work place, the federal government established a systematic and confidential method for use government-wide to review complaints. Such reviews are conducted only when a complaint has been filed officially.

## How to file:

An official discrimination complaint must be filed as an *Informal Complaint*. The complainant must contact the EEO officer within 30 calendar days of the date on which the questionable incident occurred. The EEO officer will immediately assign an EEO counselor, whose job it is to conduct the informal fact-finding inquiry. The inquiry must be completed and satisfactory resolution achieved within 21 calendar days of the filing date.

If this cannot be accomplished, the complainant receives written notice of the right to file a Formal Complaint from the EEO officer.

## Roles:

The EEO counselor is responsible for advising employees of their rights under the EEO procedures and counseling them. The problem may be discussed confidentially and impartially with associates, the supervisor and/or management officials in an effort to find a reasonable and timely solution. In addition, the aggrieved person may request assistance from the EEO counselor in preparing the formal written complaint.

For questions concerning EEO programs, services and complaint processing, In Anchorage contact: Robert H. Jones, Cliff Ligons, Jack Grafton, or Barbara Partin at 271-5066. In Fairbanks contact Charlene Heath at 356-5509.

# BLM Represented at International Oil Conference

by Danielle Allen

Kent Hunt was BLM's representative at the 1987 Oil Spill Conference in Baltimore, April 6-9. His display, chronicling the recovery of two oil spills in the arctic, was one of more than 100 exhibits presented by companies, institutions and government agencies involved with the manufacture, sale and use of products for the oil industry.

Hunt says favorable response by Interior officials to his pictorial documentation of oil spills led him to apply for acceptance to the conference.

This year's conference explored the efforts of participants in the areas of oil spill prevention, behavior, control and cleanup. In its 10th year, the conference is a biennial affair attracting international participation and recognition.

# Cadastral Surveys Hawaii

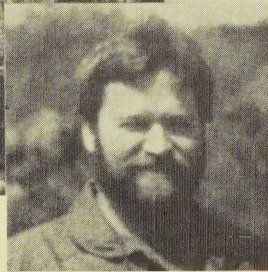
Some BLM employees have all the luck! ASO surveyors Bill Twenhofel, Steve Robinson and electronic technician Greg Duren were recently called upon to lend their autosurveying expertise to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the island of Hawaii.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Portland, Oregon, which has jurisdiction over the Hawaiian Islands, is in the midst of a land exchange on the island of Hawaii," says Twenhofel. "The area has not been surveyed since the 1800's and before the swap could be finalized, the exact boundaries of the land had to be determined.

A private surveying company in

Honolulu was contracted to do the work; however the survey company soon decided it wasn't practical to survey the land on the ground. The jungle was too thick and difficult to penetrate using conventional ground methods of surveying.

The company contacted BLM Alaska's Division of Cadastral Survey to request an autosurvey of the area. "They wanted us to determine survey points for a waterfall in the area and the latitude and longitude for six other points," says Twenhofel. The surveyors were happy to oblige. "It was a dirty job, but somebody had to do it."



(inset left) Bill Twenhofel. (left) The helicopter containing the autosurveyor lands on a lava flow. (above) The surveyors had to determine survey points for a waterfall in the area.

## Personal Notes

**Melody Jackson**, ASO Division of Conveyance Management, is the winner of the women's history potpourri questionnaire. Jackson answered 56 of the 63 questions correctly. "Finding the answers was a lot of fun," she says. "A friend and I spent six nights in the library finding the answers. We really had to do some digging. It makes you realize how little women were documented. None of the information was in the encyclopedia."

For her efforts Jackson received a pair of tickets to the University Theater.

For the second year in a row, **Dave Dorris'** daughter D'anna has won two gold medals at the girls Junior National Nordic Ski Championships. D'anna won one medal for classical nordic skiing and one for freestyle nordic skiing in the 16- to 17-year-olds competition. She and her team also won a silver medal. The championships were held at Kincaid Park in Anchorage. This is the first time the championship has been held in Alaska.

# Alaska BLM's History Recorded

by Jane Mangus

People who have lived here since the 1970s remember when BLM managed 95 percent of the land in Alaska. These people think of BLM as a big outfit and they usually assume BLM has been in Alaska a long time. But most of them and most of us who work for BLM are pretty hazy about the facts.

Sal DeLeonardis, Don Mueller and I have been researching the facts and plan to publish a booklet on the history of BLM in Alaska. "It's fun to talk to some of those old-timers," says Mueller. "We need the information only they can give us and that old shoe box full of pictures they've saved."

Last month the group got together to brainstorm a list of key events that brought BLM to Alaska and how it evolved into the organization we know today.

Working with Art Hosterman and Bob Moore (who supplied the newcomer's perspective), the group

drew up a general outline. They are now writing, researching old documents, and lining up people who were there. The group hopes to have a first draft ready by June and the final text by September.

Here are a few trivia nuggets the group has already dug up out of BLM's past:

\* Alaska's first land office opened in Sitka in 1884. Gold had been discovered there in 1872. At that time land offices were administered by the General Land Office, which was established by Congress in 1812.

\* The first fire control office in Alaska opened in 1939. It was headed by two foresters, W.G. McDonald and Roger Robinson. Robinson later became the first Alaska BLM state director.

\* In 1946 Congress created the BLM, combining the General Land Office and the Taylor Grazing Service.

\* Alaska BLM has contributed many new technologies to the Bureau. Usually these were created out of necessity because the jobs were so big,

the offices were so small and the money was so tight.

\* Alaska BLM has lead the way in developing such fire technologies as remote weather stations, aerial fire reconnaissance, lightning technology, communications technology and remote sensing.

\* When Congress handed BLM the job of conveying more than 240 million acres of land to the state and Natives, we pioneered in aerial survey technology.

"This project should have been started a long time ago and kept current as people left the organization," says DeLeonardis. "Luckily, most of the people who started BLM in Alaska and made its key decisions, like Robby Robinson, Burt Silcock, and Curt McVee, are still around. They have vivid memories of a little group of people who tackled impossible jobs and got them done the best way they could. And in the process they often invented something big."

# Office Designing Made Easy

by Susan Swartz

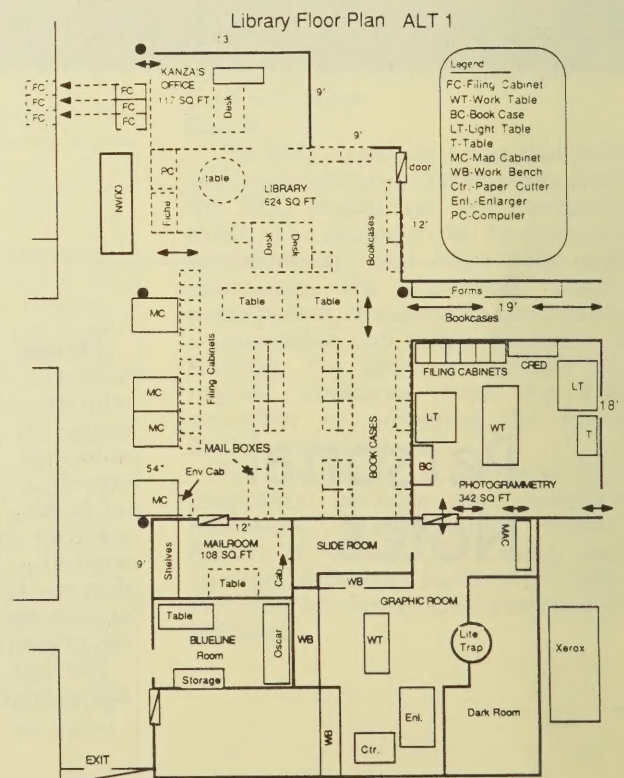
Do you remember the last time your section shuffled desks and you spent hours cutting out little scale models of office furniture? And you spent more hours pushing those cutouts around on a graph-paper outline of your new office space? Probably the most memorable part of that exercise was when someone came into your office just as you had your masterpiece in final form and threw down a sheaf of paper and scattered all those hours of labor to the floor.

In this age of the personal computer, this scene no longer has to happen. Stan Bloom, a cartographer in the Fairbanks public affairs office, made the most recent Fairbanks office shifts on his MacIntosh PC. Although the "Mac" is comparatively limited in word processing, it does have marvelous graphics capabilities. Bloom entered existing building design blueprints and scaled office furniture into the PC.

Each section chief conferred individually with Bloom, sitting in front of the PC while he pushed, pulled, rotated, added, deleted and otherwise manipulated the new design.

Some areas had several alternative drawings which if done by hand would have taken days. These designs were turned out in minutes, using only one mouse-power!

After section chief approval, the designs were printed on the laser printer and submitted to management for final approval. Jim Murray, Fairbanks Support Center manager, said, "These designs are every bit as sharp and accurate as those done by hand by our engineers. The savings in employee time and the quality of the product makes these machines pay for themselves in a very short time."



## Brasseur Turns in Tutu

by Danielle Allen

Donning a tutu to make money for BLM-sponsored charities is probably what Herb Brasseur is best known for. He also has the distinction of telling the district manager (anonymously) where not to park, shooting himself in the leg, and serving Pete Zamarello with a summons while working for BLM.

No one will deny that Herb Brasseur is quite a character. His daily inspection of the Campbell Tract was a routine chore. The jingle of keys and his brisk gait alerted employees when he made his sweep.

But this character hung up his tutu for good (his wife asked him to) at the beginning of this month. He retired after more than 20 years with the BLM.

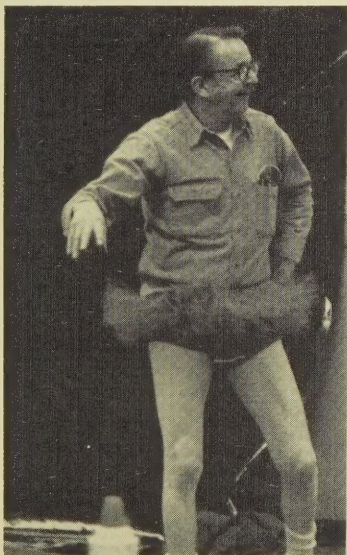
The brash, quick talking, and quite excitable Brasseur says of his many years with BLM, "I wish they'd forget me. I've made an a— of myself and I've stepped on my share of toes." But he adds, "You don't spend 20 years in a place and not miss the people. I'll really miss the job and the people."

Brasseur began working for the BLM in 1967 as a project leader for Cadastral Survey. He had seen most of the state before settling in as the Anchorage District's engineering technician in 1974.

He was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts and says, "I was a really terrible kid. I was an introvert for about two years then I broke out of that."

He and his wife Evelyn have a house on a lake waiting for them in New Hampshire. Brasseur will work in small maintenance jobs between his many fishing forays.

The BLM wishes Herb Brasseur a long and happy retirement.



*Fred Payton identifies a rock specimen for a pair of Nome residents.*

## Nome Office Celebrates 80th Birthday

by Susan Swartz

In the early summer of 1907, the first General Land Office in Nome opened its doors. Eighty years later, Fred Payton is celebrating its birthday.

Congress passed a bill on March 21, 1907 establishing funding for a land office with one registrar at a salary of \$1,500 a year. The General Land Office was combined with the Grazing Service to form the Bureau of Land Management office in 1946. Payton's research indicates that he is about the twenty-third person to man the office.

The first registrar acted as a clerk of

the court, bailiff and registrar for the land office. Much of his work was registering mining claims. Today Payton continues to work with miners, giving them land status information and telling them how to file their mining claim work, only now his information comes from a computer terminal rather than from pieces of paper.

The Nome office is like a little museum, said Payton. He still has many of the old records. Payton plans an open house in April with cake and coffee. "I'll just go out in the street with my bullhorn and call people in for cake and coffee," he said.

## Volunteer Joins BLM Ranks

Four months of volunteering in BLM's Title & Land Status Section recently paid off for Mike Peterson. On January 20 he was hired on as a temporary. "Now I am trying for a permanent position," says Peterson.

Peterson graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from Hastings College in Nebraska. Upon graduation he moved to Anchorage to live with his mom. "I didn't have a job lined up and was going to take some

classes when Patty Kelly told me about BLM's volunteer program. I figured it was a good way to get some experience."

Peterson hopes to make a career with the federal government in either cartography or surveying. "The volunteer program was a great training opportunity for me. BLM trained me, gave me experience, and helped me get my foot in the door," says Peterson.

# Applause

## Special Act Award

**Garold McWilliams**, Appraiser, ASO  
Division of Support Services  
**Bennett R. Olson**, Appraiser, ASO  
Division of Support Services  
**Terese Bertini**, Purchasing Agent,  
ASO Division of Support Services  
**Donald Westenburg**, Park Tech-  
nician, Steese-White Mountains  
District Office  
**Rachel Hodge**, Clerk Typist, ASO  
Division of Cadastral Survey

## Sustained Superior Performance Award

**Lisa Burgess**, Miscellaneous  
Documents Examiner, ASO Division of  
Conveyance Management  
**Sue McWilliams**, Land Law Examiner,  
ASO Division of Conveyance  
Management  
**Peggy Lucas**, Purchasing Agent, ASO  
Division of Support Services  
**Susan M. Will**, Archaeologist, Steese-  
White Mountains District  
**James Robson**, Computer Pro-  
grammer, ASO Division of Support  
Services  
**Carol Petersen**, Procurement  
Assistant, ASO Division of Support  
Services  
**Doris Davis-Bates**, Supervisory  
Miscellaneous Documents Examiner,  
ASO Division of Conveyance  
Management  
**Charlotte Pickering**, Land Law  
Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance  
Management

**Stacy Ponder**, Contact Representative,  
ASO Division of Conveyance  
Management  
**Dennis Benson**, Lead Contact  
Representative, ASO Division of  
Conveyance Management  
**Terese Bertini**, Purchasing Agent,  
ASO Division of Support Services  
**Ralph Basner**, Land Law Examiner,  
ASO Division of Conveyance  
Management  
**Frances J. Reed**, Land Law Examiner,  
ASO Division of Conveyance  
Management  
**Jacqueline Monroe**, Land Law  
Examiner, ASO Division of  
Conveyance Management  
**William Hauser**, Petroleum Engineer,  
ASO Division of Mineral Resources  
**Jocelyn Jones**, Clerk Typist, ASO  
Division of Support Services

## Quality Step Increase

**Donald Hinrichsen**, Peninsula  
Resource Area Manager, Anchorage  
District Office  
**Heather Rice**, Supervisory Legal  
Technician, ASO Division of Support  
Services  
**10 Year Pin**  
**Michael Berkey**, Warehouse Worker  
Leader, AFS  
**20 Year Pin**  
**Joe Essert**, Supervisory Computer  
Systems Analyst, ASO Division of  
Support Services

## Welcome Aboard

**Debra J. Llacuna**, Clerk Typist,  
ASO Division of Conveyances  
**Brenda Felchlin**, Secretary, ASO  
Division of Support Services  
**Tracey Bradford**, Clerical Assistant,  
ASO Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Lindsey Lien**, Forestry Technician,  
AFS

## Moving On

**Bruce F. Finney**, Cartographic  
Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral  
Survey  
**Karl Korpela**, Student Trainee  
Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral  
Survey  
**OK IM Bigelow**, Secretary, ASO  
Division of Mineral Resources  
**Dorothy Campbell**, Miscellaneous  
Documents Examiner, ASO Division of  
Conveyances

## Help Clean Up Anchorage

With spring just around the corner, BLM is getting many requests to supply volunteers to help with our city's spring cleaning. As part of the Secretary's Take Pride in America campaign, BLM, along with other federal agencies, has agreed to participate. But we need YOUR help!

**Saturday, May 9** is the annual city cleanup day. **Saturday, May 16** is the annual Anchorage Waterways cleanup day.

In addition, BLM and other federal agencies plan to "adopt a park" and may be doing some landscaping and cleaning during the summer. Please consider helping our community for even a few hours. Contact ASO public affairs for further information on how you can get involved. Families are welcome.

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